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EDMONTON BULLETIN, JULY 7, 1893.

INDIAN TROUBLES.

For more than a hundred years the intercourse between the British—whether directly, or represented by the government of Canada,—and the Indians of this continent has been of the most friendly character. While in the United States bloodshed between the whites and Indians was constantly occurring, on the British side of the line such things were almost or altogether unknown. The word of the agents of the government was taken almost as gospel, and the purity of their motives was never doubted. The peace and good feeling that prevailed between the two races was the natural outcome of this course of conduct on the part of the stronger party towards the weaker, and had it been persisted in there is no reason to doubt that it would have continued to be successful in the future for all time as it had been in the past. Judging it by its results the policy that has been pursued of late is anything but a success, and those who have seen that policy or rather impolicy in its workings can only say that now in horse stealing and perhaps murder it is only bearing its legitimate fruit.

Since the authority of the Canadian government has been represented in the North-West by the mounted police, until a late date, it has been the boast of every Canadian, and especially of residents of the North-West, that throughout the length and breadth of the great lone land life and property were safer than in the most orderly of eastern cities, and in no place safer than in a Indian camp. At that time the police force numbered only 300 men, and it was a common ground of complaint that the force was a useless expense as there was nothing for it to do. At the present time the police number 500 men and in the country from Swift Current to Medicine Hat and from Cypress hills to Red Deer Forks horse stealing is of nightly occurrence and life is by no means safe. Even at this distance accounts have been received of over a hundred horses having been stolen within a few weeks' time. If it was not that the railroad is being pushed so rapidly through and so far past the dangerous country the effect on immigration to these western parts of the territories would be most disastrous. Few men with families would care to strike out across the open plain for two or three hundred miles, when there was a danger that at any moment they might be left alone, and perhaps robbed of their property or even their lives. Luckily no lives have been lost as yet on this side of the boundary, but if this wholesale horse stealing is continued bloodshed is certain to occur. For this horse stealing, and for the more serious crimes to which it may or must lead, those whose mal-administration of Indian affairs has led more or less directly to their commission should be held to account at the bar of public opinion even if no other where.

This trouble is not of late origin. The causes which led to it have been working for a long time, and did not consist in any single very flagrant violation of treaty obligations, or overt acts of any kind, on the part of the government, but rather in merely a general looseness in the conduct of Indian affairs. The ruling principles of the present Indian administration seem to be that promises are only made to be broken and that a treaty is only binding as long as it can be enforced. Verbal promises without number have been made to tide over temporary difficulties, and there was no intention that they should be kept, and scarcely one of the provisions of the treaty have been complied with to the letter. These items were not very important separately, and did not collectively cause actual rebellion, but they caused a feeling of soreness and distrust that has been a mighty drawback to progress towards civilization and self support. This feeling of discontent has frequently been on the point of breaking out into open war. Indeed, in the case of the

Blackfoot it is the general impression in the south that should chief Crowfoot die—and lately he was very ill—trouble would begin at once. This distrust has kept Big Bear's band out of the treaty and has caused the more independent spirit of those belonging to other Cree and Saulteaux bands to leave their reserves and gather around him and his pit at and about Cypress hills. Necessity drove them across the boundary and inclination and opportunity led them to commit excesses rather than take chances under a treaty that they believed would not be fulfilled. These excesses led to the reprisals by United States Indians—it indeed they are not committed by these same Canadian Indians—which are now making the Cypress hills country a terror to travellers.

These troubles are not likely to reach any very serious dimensions, but that they occur at all when their occurrence is brought about by the simple inequity or worse of those who are paid for doing satisfactorily with the Indians is proof positive that a change of some kind is needed. Even a very small Indian war is an expensive luxury, and if one were started there is no certainty that it would remain small. The chances are, considering the widespread dissatisfaction that exists, that it would be but a large and expensive one. But even if matters should become no worse than they are at present they are had enough to call for a most searching investigation into the reason why the Indian policy or Canada, which has been an unparalleled success for a century should be such a dismal failure just now.

The Marquis of Lorne is to retire from the governor-generalship of Canada in the fall, and his successor has already been appointed. Parliament, at the close of the late session, presented him with an address on behalf of the members and those whom they represented, expressing regret at his departure and a belief that he would remain the steadfast friend of Canada: complimenting him on his zealous endeavors to inform himself concerning the country and his efforts to make its resources widely known, and also on the interest taken by him in the advancement of science and art. The address says: "The success of your excellency's efforts has fortified us in the belief that a full development of our national life is perfectly consistent with the closest and most loyal connection with the empire." Kindly allusion is made to the presence of the princess, and the determination is expressed to "maintain firm and abiding the connection with the great empire," over which Queen Victoria rules. In his reply Lord Lorne spoke in the most complimentary manner of the people of Canada, their material and rapid progress and free institutions. He said, "You are not the subjects but the free allies of a great country which gave you birth, and is ready with all its energy to be the champion of your interests." This is the right kind of talk. It is fact and common sense. It is to the interests and in accordance with the feelings of both Canada and Britain that the one should remain a part and the other retain it as a part of this mighty British empire, or as it might more properly be termed confederacy. At present Canada is nominally a dependency although practically independent. If she were at the present time nominally independent she would be actually a dependency of the United States. If the administration of Lord Lorne has really proven to both parliament and people that the present relative positions of Canada and the Empire are for the best interests of both, he will have accomplished more good than he has ever received credit for, more even than his more popular predecessor. Somehow the people of Canada never enthused over Lorne as they did over Dufferin, but what the reason was it is hard to say. More aristocratic in his lineage and connections and less so in his tastes and principles, honorable and upright in every respect, essentially practical, and of abilities and acquisitions far above the average, never on any occasion leaving himself open to the first word of blame, it is hard to see why the same people who went wild over his predecessor turned to him a cold shoulder. He was an ideal governor, but no one seemed to know it while he was fulfilling his term of office. Now when he is about leaving they begin to realize what he has been and done,

and to offer tardy acknowledgement. He was of the kind that wear well. When he came first Canadians were prejudiced against him, thinking that he could never equal Dufferin, and to this negative feeling rather than anything else, may be attributed his lack of extraordinary popularity. He had no doubt about it, and his talents were not of the glittering kind which awaken popular enthusiasm. He merely attended to his own business thoroughly and left that of others alone. It is beginning to be understood now how well he did attend to his business, and were his term of office to be repeated there is no doubt that he would enjoy in full and throughout that appreciation of his work and motives which was denied him in the past.

IMMENSE STOCK

Just to hard of following:—

DRY GOODS:

PRISTS—Large quantity, beautiful patterns, full range of prices and all remarkably cheap. More to arrive by McPherson and others.
DRESS GOODS—Full line black Cashmere, black Cough, black lustre, and a good assortment of fancy colored dress goods. More to follow. Also large number of ladies' dresses in latest designs.

DECK (white)—Large stock, all weights.
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TICKING—All widths and patterns.

DRIVING GOODS—Fine goods, assorted patterns.
CLOTHS—Nice patterns, fast colors, and cheap.

HOSIERY—Full lines, women and children.
FANCY GOODS—Immense stock to arrive.

BOOTS AND SHOES:

All kinds and sizes in women, children, boy and men.

GENTS' FURNISHINGS:

Good assortment.

TWEEDS:

Plain, checked, striped, etc., in English, Scotch and Canadian manufacture. This is without exception, the largest and best stock of tweeds that has ever been brought into the North-West.

INSPECTION INVITED.

And we would respectfully inform our numerous customers and the general public that we have an A1 cutter on the way here to take charge of the tailoring department, which we hope to open in about ten days.

TO ARRIVE.

Ladies trimmed hats, flowers, fancy goods, dry goods, ready-made clothing, and a very large stock of hardware and fancy groceries.

JNO. A. McDUGALL & CO.

THE COLBANE RANFEE COMPANY

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BOW RIVER, N.W.T.

Breeders of Short Horn, Hereford and Polled Aberdeen cattle, and of Clydesdale and Thoroughbred horses.

Cattle branded "C" on left hip, and under b't out of left ear.

Horses branded "C" on left shoulder.

F. WHITE,

Manager.
Address Calgary, N.W.T.

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STUART D. MULKINS,

Sole agent in Edmonton for the sale of lots on the

ROBERTSON & MCCINN PROPERTY, Lot No. 12, EDMONTON.

MACDONALD & McLEOD PROPERTY, Lot No. 14, EDMONTON.

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Plans may be seen at my office. Terms easy. Office Lot 37, Block 2, Robertson & McCinn estate.

BROWN & CURRY,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

Des to inform the public that their long expected freight has arrived at last, and that they have now on hand the

LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE STOCK

That has ever been brought into the North-West,

WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

Although the rate of freight is high we pay no more than others, and as we have

NO MIDDLE MEN TO CONTENT WITH

As others have, and as our goods are all bought direct from the importers or manufacturers, and

SELECTED FROM THE BEST QUALITIES

We are able to offer

BETTER AND CHEAPER GOODS THAN ANY OTHER FIRM IN EDMONTON.

We respectfully ask everyone to call and examine our goods before purchasing elsewhere.

BROWN & CURRY.

NORRIS & CAREY,

Have just received a large and complete assortment of

NEW AND SEASONABLE GOODS,

Which will be sold at

PRICES LOWER THAN LAST FALL, NOTWITHSTANDING THE HIGH FREIGHT!

The stock on hand includes

SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF BOOTS AND SHOES

Of every variety and at bottom prices.—Men's buttoned Overshoes and Felt Boots. Ladies' and Children's Overshoes.

A LARGE STOCK OF GROCERIES

Which are going off rapidly.

DRY GOODS & READY-MADE CLOTHING

All styles and prices.

AT BOTTOM FIGURES THROUGHOUT.

NORRIS & CAREY,

St. Albert Road.

PTBLIC MEETING.

The meeting which was called for Tuesday afternoon last in the public school house by G. A. Simpson for the purpose of explaining the new land law and giving information to settlers in regard to the land office which had lately been opened, was well attended, the building being crowded, although only one day's notice had been given.

M. McCauley was appointed chairman, and explained the object of the meeting by reading the poster calling it. He said the meeting would be addressed by Mr. Simpson, who would answer any questions that might be put to him. Any person who so desired would also be at liberty to address the meeting.

G. A. Simpson said that as he was here to give information he would be happy to answer any questions that might be put to him to the best of his ability. In the first place in order that there might be a distinct understanding on the subject he might as well point out just who he was and what powers he had. He then read a portion of the agreement whereby the Queen sold to the Edmonton and Saskatchewan land company certain lands in townships 53 and 54 range 23 and townships 53, 54, 56, and 57 in range 24, all west of the 5th meridian. A clause in the agreement which he read empowered the company's agent to take entries for the homestead and pre-emption lands within the townships purchased by them, charging the same fees as if the entries were made in a government land office, and sending periodical accounts to the government of all entries made and monies received. He was the agent of the society for the odd sections within the townships mentioned and of the government for the even ones. Several of the odd sections had been entered on long ago, and he had no doubt that the settlers who had went on them in good faith would be treated properly both by the company and the government. The odd sections either within or without the society's tract were not open either for homesteading or pre-emption. He read a clause from the new land bill in relation to homestead entry which said that when a person entered for a homestead he could also enter for a pre-emption provided there was land available, but if he did not so enter, within three months from the date of his entry for his homestead the company was at liberty to purchase the pre-emption at \$2 per acre. The law was very strict in regard to speculative squatting, and the government was compelled to be so on account of the extent to which this practice had been indulged in. He read an opinion from commissioner Walsh on the subject which appears in the last report of the department of the interior, to the effect that there seemed to be an impression abroad that the government intended every person to have a homestead and pre-emption. This was not the case. It was the intention to grant land from this time forth only to those who would make the cultivation of their business. This was a law for the farmer. If lands were left vacant the country could not go ahead as it was the desire of the actual settler, the company and the government to see it. There was no use in locking up the land. The company had to put two settlers on every odd section within their grant. If they did not fulfil their agreement they would forfeit money paid on the land to the amount of \$60,000. He desired to see a flourishing settlement grow up here. It was to the interest of the company to make the land valuable. If through the influence of the company, their work and outlay, the country was advanced he thought they should receive due credit. The advantage of making a homestead entry now was that once it was made it gave the homesteader power to prosecute for trespass, while the land was not liable to be seized for debt. The patent would be issued at the end of three years from the date of entry, and would issue if entered with him just the same as if entered in the general land office. He had written asking that a Dominion lands office be established, but as such matters as these moved rather slowly he could not say how long it might be before it would be established. He read from the new land bill to show that when any two or more persons were found in occupation of the same quarter section the first in occupation had the first right to entry in the land office. The fee for a homestead entry was \$10 and the same for a pre-emption. He explained that sections 11 and 29 in every township, except the north-west quarter of 29 in every fifth township north of the boundary were school lands. The H.B.C. lands were 8 and 26 in each township except the north-west quarter of 26 in every fifth township north of the boundary. In answer to an enquiry by D. Ross he said he understood that the H.B.C.'s grant extended five miles north of the north Saskatchewan. In answer to a question by L. Gurneau he said that the old settlers had special claims to consideration that could not be overlooked. A special survey had been made of their lands and he had no doubt that their claims would be settled by a commission to be appointed. If a man had a right to his land there was no doubt he would get it. The present government was the wisest, most liberal, and far-seeing Canada ever had.

James Price said he had settled on what turned out to be an odd section after survey. When he first took fit by Aldous' 14th base line it was an even section. He had settled on it in good faith and had lived on it ever since. He would like to know what was going to be done with him.

Mr. Simpson thought Mr. Price had an equitable right to his claim, and the fact that he had taken it up under an authorized survey as an even section made his case still better. He could give no opinion on the matter at present, but had no doubt that when the government agent was appointed Mr. Price would have justice done him. In answer to another question by Mr. Price, he said he thought a settler in his position would get his homestead but did not think he would get his pre-emption. These lands had been sold and had passed into the hands of the company. He read a clause from the bargain between the company and the government which said in effect that should any of the lands sold to the company be found to be in the possession of actual settlers at that date—15th of June, '82—such settlers should not be disturbed by the company, and on the case or cases being represented to the department of the interior the minister should have power to withdraw from sale to the company such lands to an amount not exceeding 320 acres to each settler.

J. Price said that according to that a man could get both his homestead and his pre-emption. As he had worked on old lines he thought he was entitled to extra consideration.

Mr. Simpson thought so too, but said that he was here to read the law, not to give his opinion.

L. Gurneau asked what time the company was allowed in which to settle the odd sections. He was told that it was five years.

J. Price asked if a man came on his pre-emption would he have the right to put him off.

Mr. Simpson thought that a case such as this would come under the law of equity.

G. A. Blake asked if Mr. Simpson ever told a certain man that he had a right to go on his pre-emption, as he (Blake) could not hold it.

Mr. Simpson asked if the person alluded to was present. Being informed that he was not, he said he did not remember having told him what was alleged. He was placed in a very awkward position. People frequently came to him asking him as to their right to take a certain piece of land, and he only found out afterwards that the land was already occupied. He could not have told any man to take land belonging to another. But desired it to be understood that a practice which had prevailed here for some time, which was the selling of claims before a patent was issued, was unlawful, and would leave the seller liable to lose the next claim he took. This getting pay for unimproved claims was a species of blackmail on the intending bona fide settler. The land office would be conducted on the principle of first come first served.

J. Price asked if he held his homestead on an odd section could he take a pre-emption on the adjoining even one?

Mr. Simpson read from the land bill that persons occupying land owned by them may obtain homestead entry for any contiguous land open to the same. He also read from clause 28 which says that settlers before survey on lands open for homesteading shall have the first right to entry for the lands so settled on, provided that right be exercised within (blank) after the land is open for settlement; and no homestead entry shall be granted for such land to any other person by the local agent until (blank) after notice in writing shall have been given by the agent to the settler that the land is open for settlement.

T. Anderson, crown timber agent, wished to assure the meeting that entries made with Mr. Simpson would have the same effect as if made in a regular government land office.

The chairman said he would like to know whether we would receive our patents any sooner by entering with Mr. Simpson.

Mr. Simpson assured him that as he would have to wait three years from the date of his entry for his patent, the sooner he made his entry the sooner he would get his patent. There was no government land office established here and it was impossible to tell when there would be one.

James McDonald wanted to know if the lands were not colonized by the company according to agreement would they get them?

Mr. Simpson said that if they could satisfy the government commissioner they certainly would. If they had not the full number of settlers they would probably have to take a trip to Ottawa to arrange fresh terms.

F. Provost thought the company was doing very well. They had a good many settlers on their land without it costing them much.

Rev. Dr. Newton had observed very closely everything connected with land matters in this country, and he always saw that the Canadian government acted with justice and fairness to the settler. He was quite certain that in any disputed case the settler would receive every advantage. Any trouble that would occur would be brought about by parties here, it would not come from any wrong intention on the part of those in authority at

Ottawa. He was sure that Mr. Simpson had every desire to have the country settled, and that the company which he represented would give us who were on the land every chance and would act in a good spirit, and he hoped that they would be met in a similar manner.

Mr. Simpson said that the society would be of some advantage to the country in that they would bring in good seed and improved stock. This would be a great advantage to the settlers. Every man on an even section was entitled to a homestead. He would do all he could to have a general land office established.

F. Provost asked if a settler on an odd section could be compelled to give up his improvements, or would the society pay him for them, in case he had to leave his claim?

Mr. Simpson said it was impossible for the company to deal with these people until after they had been dealt with by the department. In reply to W. G. Ibbotson he said that homesteaders must positively reside on and cultivate their homesteads, and referred again to the evils of speculative squatting.

Mr. Ibbotson said this did not give a poor man a chance.

At the request of the chairman Mr. Simpson read again clause six of the agreement between the company and the government whereby the claims of settlers on odd sections before survey may be reserved by the minister of the interior from sale to the company to the amount of 320 acres to each settler. He had recommended to the government that the deeds be got out for the lands of the old settlers as soon as possible. Many of these people were entitled to their patent before this time.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Simpson for the information furnished the meeting was given by a large majority of those present.

Mr. Simpson, in acknowledgment of the vote of thanks, said that he believed fair play was bonnie play. He would not be a party to anything that would in any way injure the settler.

After a vote of thanks to the chairman the meeting was declared closed.

As the chairman left the chair F. Oliver said he desired to say a few words to the meeting and to Mr. Simpson if all parties were agreeable. He had refrained from doing so before as he held views so diametrically opposed to the society that he felt a little shy about stating them in a meeting called by their agent in their interest, but at the same time he felt that it was only fair that now that he was face to face with the agent of the company that he should say before his face what he had said behind his back. He had a few questions to ask Mr. Simpson.

Mr. Simpson expressed himself as satisfied to remain and answer any questions that might be asked or attacks that might be made. The meeting was then reorganized, M. McCauley in the chair.

F. Oliver said that he would like to be informed upon what terms the colonization society proposed to dispose of their lands.

Mr. Simpson said he was not in a position to say just now, but that Mr. W. B. Scarth was expected here in a few days, and in fact was expected to-day, when he would be able to give all information on the subject.

Mr. Oliver said that while he had no word to say against the agent of the society or the society itself, he certainly thought their interests and ours were not alike. They had purchased the odd sections within these townships for the purpose of holding them until a higher price could be realized. He agreed with Mr. Simpson that speculative squatting was bad for the country, but he thought the scheme whereby half the land in the townships in this vicinity was placed in the hands of a speculative company whose only thought was to make money out of it, was infinitely worse for the country than any speculative squatting that had ever been carried on, and so he was opposed to it. Mr. Simpson had called this meeting to advise those parties settled on even sections before survey to enter their lands with him. He had said that he was unable to take entries for settlers on odd sections. He (the speaker) thought the best plan would be for those on even as well as those on odd sections to wait until a government land office was established and enter their lands in it. Although the Canadian government might not be worthy of all the praise accorded it by Mr. Simpson, he thought it would deal far more justly with the settler than the colonization society would. The reason he advised the settlers on even sections to hold back from entry was this. The society was compelled by their agreement to place 64 settlers in every township of their grant. A great many settlers were already settled within these townships before survey. If these men entered with the society they would certainly be counted as having been placed there by the company, but if they refused to enter except in the government land office it would be almost impossible for the company to fulfil their agreement as to putting on settlers, they would be compelled to forfeit their land, and it would be thrown open for settlement. Mr. Simpson had said that if they failed in their agreement they would have to make a new

bargain. But when it came to that they might not be able to do so. He advised settlers before survey to put their trust in the "capable, wise, and far seeing" government of Sir John A. Macdonald rather than in the Edmonton and Saskatchewan land company of W. B. Scarth, George Gordon Dunstan and G. A. Simpson.

Mr. Simpson said that Mr. Oliver had thrown out slurs, insinuations and sneers against the land company. He would like to know in what way the company had shown the cloven hoof, or attempted to deal unfairly. It was a pity that such men were found in any community, who would continually make trouble and advise people to their own injury. He read a document purporting to be his authority for acting as agent of the company and the government in this land matter and assured the people that he did not care whether they entered their lands or not, but if they did not enter with him they could not enter at all. They would only get their patents three years from the date of entry and the sooner they entered the better. Mr. Oliver was deceiving the people.

Mr. Oliver said that he had no wish to use hard words. What he had said in regard to the settlers on even sections being perfectly independent of the colonization company he gave on the authority of a speech delivered by the minister of the interior in the house, desiring not to be held responsible for the statements of the agents of colonization companies, and assuring the house that the company had nothing whatever to do with settlers on even sections. He referred to a clause in the land bill which Mr. Simpson had in his hand which read in effect that a patent was earned three years from the date of first continuous occupation without regard to date of entry.

Mr. Simpson asked the meeting if there were any other points they desired explained. As no one replied the meeting adjourned.

NOTICES.

PARTIES indebted to us by book account or otherwise are notified that unless the same are settled at once they will be placed in court for collection. A. MACDONALD & CO.

NOTICE.—All parties who subscribed to the fund for the relief of the Long Bros. and who have not yet paid, are requested to forward the amounts so subscribed to the Bulletin office at once, as the lists should have closed on June 1st.

NOTICE.—All parties indebted to the late firm of Jas. Haly & Co. are hereby notified to pay the amount of their accounts to S. D. Mulkins before June 1st, as he has instructions to sue all parties whose accounts are not paid at that date.

TO LET, on reasonable terms, at Ft. Saskatchewan, about 400 yards from police barracks, a four roomed house with frame kitchen attached. Would do either for a store or dwelling house, with convenient stable and outhouses. Apply to Robt. Belcher, Ft. Saskatchewan.

NOTICE TO TRAVELLERS.—The Calgary ferry is situated about a mile below the mouth of Nose creek. Travellers should leave the trail before it descends into the valley of Nose creek and keep on the bench land close to the river until the ferry is reached. Rates moderate. Special terms made with large outfits.

EDMONTON & SASKATCHEWAN LAND CO. OF CANADA (limited).—Notice is hereby given that the land office for the registration of homesteads and pre-emptions and sale of lands in townships fifty-three and fifty-four, range twenty-three, and townships fifty-three, fifty-four, fifty-six and fifty-seven, in range twenty-four, all west of fourth initial meridian, has this day been opened. GEO. A. SIMPSON, agent.—Edmonton, June 28th, 1883.

CHURCHES.

ST. JOACHIM'S, R. C. CHURCH, Edmonton.—Mass at 10 a.m. every Sunday. Sermon in English and Cree. Afternoon services at 3 o'clock. C. SCOLLEN, O.M.I.

METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.—D. C. Sanderson, Pastor. Hours of service, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sabbath School, 2.30 p.m. Prayer meeting and lecture, Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—All Saints.—Incumbent, Rev. Canon Newton, Ph. Doc. Services on Sundays at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Indian service at the close of the afternoon service. Residence at the Hermitage. Members of the church coming to Edmonton are invited to call on the clergyman.

EDMONTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Pastor—the Rev. Andrew B. Baird, M.A., B.D. Sabbath services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sabbath school at 2.30 p.m. Prayer meeting and meeting for the practice of sacred music on Friday evening at 7.30. The usual Sabbath morning service will be interrupted by Mr. Baird's monthly visit to Fort Saskatchewan, on July 22nd.

THE CELEBRATION.

Monday last, although a little behind the usual time, was set apart for the celebration of confederation day, which usually takes place on the first of the month. The morning gave every promise of being a fine and rainy day, and the forenoon was quite showery. But about midday the sky began to clear, and the afternoon was clear, cool and windy, most suitable for those engaged in the various sports. These were under the management of a committee consisting of D. Ross chairman, Dr. L. M. St. John, treasurer, and W. G. Gibson, field manager, and Messrs. S. D. Mulkins, W. McLeod and E. Brownson. Nearly two hundred dollars had been collected for distribution in prizes.

Notwithstanding the showery weather the fun which was timed for 10 a.m. began nearly on time.

The first event called was the mile horse race. For this there were four entries: O. Bellesore's Bell-sore horse; C. Fraser's Sam, bay horse; C. Beauregard's Sorrel; and W. J. O'Donnell's Cream. Bellesore took the first money and Fraser the second. Time of winner 3:16.

The half mile race came next. There were three entries: H. Fraser's Little Rorie, G. Kipping's Doll, and McDonald's second hand bird. Fraser first, Kipping second. Time of winner 1:43.

There were three entries for the quarter mile race: C. Fraser's Sam, Larose's Jim, and W. McDonald's Jim. This race was run in heats. Fraser's horse coming in first every time. Larose and McDonald took a heat each, but McDonald's horse became lame after the second heat and did not run in the third. Fraser first, Larose second. Time of winner in first heat 2:51 and in the second 2:52 seconds.

There were six or seven entries for the native pony race, and six or seven for the Indian riders he was ruled out and the prize given the second horse ridden by Potkin.

Two entries were in the consolation race: George Norris' Billy, roan horse, and V. Lawrence's Bay, G. Norris first.

For the half mile foot race there were five entries: Cyril Boucher, W. West, Skezik, G. Norris, and an Indian with a long unpronounceable and uncatchable name. Boucher first, West second. Time of winner 2:15.

Three entries were made for the 100 yards race: W. West, A. Rowland and G. Lyons. West first, Rowland second. Time of winner 11:30 seconds.

There were four entries for the mile race: Cyril Boucher, Skezik, E. Lyons and A. McCarriest. Boucher first, Skezik second. Time of winner 5:12.

Three performers on the horizontal bar entered for competition: J. Symonds, J. Chabot, and the Great Unknown. Symonds first, Chabot second. The unknown refused to remain so. After the competition was over W. Hurley, F. Hardisty, I. Gagnon, and J. Lauder, went through the same break-neck performance on the bar. Hurley was the only one to come in without a fall, and he was the only one to come in with a low instead of being horizontal.

The first boys' foot race was for those from eight to eleven years of age. The winner was John Rowland, Samuel Rowland, D. Noyes, and A. Rowland. John Rowland first, Samuel Rowland second.

The next was 100 yards for boys from eleven to fifteen years of age. Four entries: W. Rowland, H. Cunningham, T. Hardisty, J. Lauder. W. Rowland first, H. Cunningham second.

The men's 250 yards race was entered for by W. West, A. Rowland and E. Lyons. West first, Rowland second.

There were a large number of entries in the slow race and it ended in a great deal of fun, some of the alleged slow boys came in on a good run. The winner was ridden by G. Norris and owned by Xavier someone, but the sports committee did not know.

The slow race wound up the prize programme, and the lacrosse match was commenced. C. W. W. and G. Gibson were captains, with ten players to a side. The first game was won by Sutter, the two next by Gibson, and the fourth by Sutter, making two games to one. The fifth and a decisive game was not played. Every game was well contested, and the playing showed a very great improvement over that of last fall. Every qualification necessary to the playing of a good game, except the science that comes of long practice, being exhibited. The players labored under a great disadvantage from the fact that there was no railing around the ground, and the crowd pressed in on them so much as to seriously hinder their movements.

While the lacrosse match was in progress a quarter mile race was entered for by four horses that ran in the consolation race for still further satisfaction. G. Norris' roan was ridden by J. Lauder, and V. Lawrence's Bay by E. Carey. The bay was considered the best horse in the race, and he was a length or two ahead. There was considerable betting on this race, and the backers of the bay claimed that he had been in a fair start. Finally a purse of four dollars was made up to induce them to try again which they did with fair start and the same result as before, the bay ahead.

D. Noyes and W. Hurley were judges in the competitions, and the time of the more important races was taken by Mr. Hurley, who is possessed of a stop watch.

Conceding that the races that ran were almost untrained and none of them professionals, the time made was very good. There was a large number of spectators on the ground during the afternoon—over 200—and as one event was on sooner or later than another was called, the interest of all was kept up. The committee who were in the proceedings, for which the managing committee deserve every credit, and the prize money was paid promptly at seven o'clock in the evening. The same day the sports took place. Three refreshment tents were on the ground, where soft beer and paillikier cocktails were dispensed during the thirty-one, and all did a very fair trade, although the cool weather was decidedly against their achieving extraordinary financial success. The sports were over and the ground deserted by about five o'clock.

SMOKE RIVER.

J. Vickers, of V. T. Thompson's survey party, arriving on Monday last week from Smoke River, via Slave lake and the Athabasca landing. He left the party on the 31st of May, in camp at the Birch hills, and after a journey of thirteen days, arrived at Smoke River, about seventeen miles from the nearest point on Peace river, and forty miles from the mouth of the river.

The party numbered thirteen men, and all had enjoyed excellent health during the winter. W. Macdonald, who had the most spirit, joined the party without mishap, and when Vickers left he was about to make a fourth trip to the cache which he and Vickers had made on the north side of the Deer mountains last winter. Three attempts have already been made to reach it. Two were entirely unsuccessful, and the third time the cache was reached, but the horses that were so played out by the time they got there that they were unable to bring it down. Any account of the trip to the cache of the head of Slave lake on the 22nd of June in the H. B.C.'s boats, and the trip to the east end and outlet of the lake occupied nearly two days. From there to the landing took one day. A day was spent at the landing, and the trip from the landing to Peace river took two days.

McGivley's party was not above the rapids of Slave river, on the way to Peace river to divide the work there with Mr. Thompson. The party was not above the rapids of the north to the crossing of the Athabasca, a couple of miles below the mouth of Slave river, and went on to the mouth of the river, but found the country impassable in summer on account of swamps and timber, and was obliged to give up. It is probable that Mr. Ogilvie will run out on the H. B.C. principal meridian, which has been established by Mr. Thompson, while the latter runs north. The party traversed the north side of the lake, and both shores of Slave lake, during the winter, then ran due westward from the western end of the lake to the mouth of the lake, and then on to the mouth of the river, it is altogether likely that owing to the expense of taking men into that country, the trip will not be made again for some time; at least until the more important base lines have been run and the principal points of interest in the country reached.

Smith, Osborne and Williams coal oil location was passed on the south side of Slave river, about seven miles above its junction with the Athabasca.

The weather of last winter was very cold in January, and the snow was deep, but February was not very cold, and March was exceptionally fine. During the coldest weather the dog drivers kept in the open air, rolled up in their heavy blankets, but the dogs were said to have been very comfortable. Mosquitoes appeared in March, and they were kept off by the use of smoke. The season broke up about the 10th of April. Common wild flowers appeared in April, and roses in the latter end of May. The spring was dry, but there was a slight fall of snow on the 6th of May. Since then there was none. A slight frost occurred on the night of the 31st of May, but none since. The season at Smoke river is fully two weeks earlier than at Slave lake or Edmonton.

The Birch hills, which Thompson's party camped, are very thickly timbered. The hills are not more than 200 feet above the level of the surrounding country. From the Birch hills the view west to Peace river is rather flat and heavily timbered, but towards the south-west it is open plain, known as the Birch hills, which is rich in a magnificent country, but subject to summer frosts. Between the Birch hills and Peace river a stream called Birch lake has large pieces of coal in its valley and no doubt some in its banks.

From Birch hills eastward to Smoke river on the Peace river the country is flat and is to be wet, and is also heavily timbered. About ten miles west of the Smoke the country is very low and there are numerous lakes which abound in geese, ducks and eggs. The country clear through to the head of Slave lake is full of beaver dams which help greatly to make and keep it wet. There are a great

many beaver, and the party killed three moose at the Smoke river in the spring. For a few miles on each side of the Smoke the country is very low, and the river itself is about 300 yards wide, and is a rapid, shallow stream, not navigable. It has a valley 400 feet deep where Thompson's party crossed it, and the valley is about four miles wide from the brink of one bank to that of the other. Large pieces of good coal are scattered about the country, but in no seams. The burning coal seam from which the river takes its name is situated at the junction of the big and little Smoke rivers, a few miles above the mouth of the lake, but it is thought that it must have ceased burning, as the smoke could not be seen.

From Smoke river to Slave lake is 69 miles by the link the country generally is flat and inclined to be wet in wet seasons. It is mostly timbered with poplar and spruce and some of both in the very large size. The soil is generally good, but there are some sandy ridges on which there is growth of jack pine. Just at the western extremity of Slave lake there is a piece of open country about ten thousand acres in extent, sloping towards the lake, which would be very suitable for farming.

Slave lake is about 100 miles long, and its shores are thickly wooded with spruce and poplar, a great deal of which is of large size. The country is very fertile, and is open country suitable for farming but not to any considerable amount. There is also a little farming land along Swan river which comes into Slave lake on its south shore from the Deer mountains. The north shore of the lake is thickly timbered throughout, and although the high mountains are on the south shore, the Deer mountains, where Vickers and Macdonald made their cache last winter, are on the south side of the lake, running parallel to it. The mountains are about 1,000 feet high and covered with spruce and jack pine. The snow falls from four to six feet deep on the mountains, and the country with these mountains to Fort Assiniboine on the Athabasca the country is generally worthless. The land is principally muskeg and what timber forest grows on it is bare.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of the directors of the Edmonton district agricultural society was held at the school house, Edmonton, on Tuesday, July 3rd. Present: M. McCauley president, and Messrs. Ross, Stewart, Mulkins and Patton, directors. The business of the meeting was the framing of a constitution and by-laws for the governing of the society.

At the meeting a copy of the act of the legislature of Manitoba for the reorganization of the department of agriculture and statistics, which contained under the head of electoral division societies certain clauses which it would be advisable to adopt into the proposed by-laws. Clauses 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, were then upon motion adopted as a portion of such by-laws, with the exception of the required quorum in articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, which were then adopted as a portion of such by-laws, with the exception of the required quorum in articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 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